



DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE

Effective government institutions that represent the interests of all citizens are essential for inclusive economic growth, social development, and prosperity. Corruption threatens Peru's socioeconomic gains and the stability of the region. Responding to increasing citizen discontent and interest from the Government of Peru to strengthen its institutions, USAID works with civil society organizations, public officials and private-sector partners to strengthen the responsiveness, transparency, accountability of key government institutions to increase public integrity, reduce corruption and support human rights.

As Peru's economy has grown over the past decade, so has public-sector corruption. Peru's National Comptroller General reports that corruption generates a loss of more than \$3 billion dollars annually. By partnering with government, civil society and private-sector leaders, USAID supports Peru's National Integrity Plan and Fight Against Corruption to improve government accountability and capacity to prevent and mitigate corruption in priority public investments, strengthen public and private sector transparency, and increase citizen engagement in government oversight. Peru's National Integrity Plan directly advances the recommendations from Peru's Country Program with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

OUR WORK

PROMOTING INTEGRITY IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Public procurement remains hampered by processes that are inefficient and overly complex, making it prone to corruption. USAID supports the Government of Peru's commitments to improve public spending and procurement processes. Activities help government counterparts to strengthen internal control mechanisms, such as concurrent public auditing, and promote more competitive and transparent public procurement systems. Through multi-sector integrity networks, partnerships enhance civic oversight of public spending processes, and engage the private sector to advance the role of corporations in creating a culture of public integrity. USAID assistance provides concrete, targeted impacts. For example, in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis, a senior procurement specialist provided recommendations to streamline emergency purchasing protocols for the Ministry of Health, facilitating \$132 million in emergency procurement of personal protective equipment, emergency oxygen systems, and medicines.

COMBATTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Peru is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. Indigenous Peruvian women and girls are particularly targeted. USAID works with the Peruvian government to implement its policy to end human trafficking, improve legal and protection services for victims, and train justice-sector experts who work with victims. USAID provides legal and psychological support to trafficked victims through a leading Peruvian NGO, *Capital Humano y Social Alternativo*. USAID's partnerships to counter trafficking have increased public attention and improved public funding to stop human trafficking and help hundreds of victims in the priority areas of Loreto, Madre de Dios, Cusco, and Lima.

FOSTERING TRANSPARENCY IN THE EXTRACTIVE SECTOR

While the Peruvian Amazon is rich in timber and natural resources, public revenue from their extraction is often misused. USAID builds the Government of Peru's capacity to remain compliant with the international Extractives Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI), which supports establishment of transparent and accountable use of royalty resources for local development. With USAID assistance, the regional governments of Piura, Moquegua, Arequipa, Apurímac and Loreto approved EITI agreements and established citizen committees to monitor budgeting processes and government expenditures for the benefit of the public.

INCREASING ACCOUNTABILITY IN PUBLIC RECONSTRUCTION

In the wake of the disastrous "Niño Costero" floods of 2017, the Government of Peru allocated over \$7 billion to rebuild and repair homes, schools, clinics, roads and sanitation systems but procurements were delayed after concerns about public corruption. USAID promotes effective public investment through the civil society-led Integrity Observatory, a consortium that partners with Peru's Authority for Reconstruction, the Comptroller General's Office, Peru's public procurement oversight agency and the Public Integrity Secretariat to increase government accountability within the reconstruction process by using the recommendations of citizen oversight committees to improve public works and root out graft and corruption. Since April 2018, more than 100 committees have monitored 1022 public works in five target regions. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Integrity Observatory established virtual citizen oversight protocols to ensure the accurate delivery of emergency food to the poorest families and to monitor the new public works and job creation program in more than 70 municipalities in the worst affected regions.

CONTACTS

MISSION

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